

WILLIAM M. DAVIES, JR. CAREER AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
50 Jenckes Hill Road, Lincoln, RI 02865

Board of Trustees

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

I. Routine

A. Call Meeting to Order

At 5:10 pm, Mr. Ferdinandi, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

B. Roll Call of the Board

Davies' Executive Assistant called the roll of the Board.

Members Present: Richard Beaupre; Timothy Csanadi; V. Michael Ferdinandi,
Chairperson; Michael Marra

Members Absent: James Bone; John Gregory; Robert Halkyard; Carolyn Kyle; Deborah
Lopes; Dr. James Segovis, *Vice Chairperson*; Lornette Uthman

Others Present: Brian Butler; Cheryl Carroll; Vickie Gailliard; Susan Paquin; Vicki
Phelps; Karen Murphy, Gerald Suggs, SkillsUSA Medal Winners and
Parents

C. Approval of Minutes – March 2, 2005 and April 6, 2005 Regular Session

A motion was not made at this time to approve or not approve the minutes of the
March 2nd and April 6th Regular Session minutes.

At this point on the agenda, the meeting was directed to agenda item III, A., 8.
Social Studies teacher, Mr. Gerry Suggs, the Davies SkillsUSA Advisor reported
to the Board the outcome of this year's SkillsUSA competition at the state level.
This year we have a record number of students who won gold medals and are
going on to Kansas City to compete nationally. Some of the winning students
and their parents sat in the audience this evening and as Mr. Suggs gave us a tour
of the programs in the school reporting on how well they did, he introduced the
students to the Board. We won medals in 75% of the opportunities we had. We
won the Gold medal in 14 of the 26 contests that we entered.

Every year, Mr. Suggs promises the Board they will do better than the last. Last
year's outcome was tough to beat, but with this year's team, he believes there is a
great chance they will do better.

After the applause, Mr. Ferdinandi addressed the medal winners and Mr. Suggs
on behalf of the Board. The Board really appreciates the job Mr. Suggs does as
advisor of the SkillsUSA program. They realize the hard work it takes to get the
job done. To the students, it is clear how serious they take the instruction in the
programs in the school, and how well they apply themselves which is clear with
what they have learned and how they competed against the other schools. This is
something they will remember for the rest of their lives, but they are also

preparing themselves for great careers as well. The other thing the Board is most concerned about is that it speaks for the quality of instruction that goes on in the school, because at the end of the day it is the quality of instruction and the seriousness of the students that allows Mr. Suggs to advise the SkillsUSA program and deliver the medals and the learning that they have all had. "Congratulations to all of you."

Ms. Gailliard spoke to the parents in the audience. She said that of course the teachers have one portion of this formula, but the parents also play a major role with the dedication they have in their children, the fact that they sent their children to Davies which means they believe in us, and that they are working with us as a family to make sure we have the number of successes that we currently have with a lot of our students. She thanked the parents for their involvement and for being a part of the learning process for their children at the Davies School.

D. **Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

Back in 2001, Mr. Beaupre joined a group that visited Germany to study their dual-educational system where about 80% of the students go through a trade school environment. He made a presentation of that visit to the Board back at that time. One of the 15 members in the group wrote a book on the comparison of Germany's system and the United States' education system. To defray the printing cost, Mr. Beaupre committed to buying ten books of which he donated nine of them to Davies.

E. **Recess to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to Discuss Pending Litigation and Personnel Issues**

At 5:25 pm, Mr. Ferdinandi made a motion to recess into Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to discuss pending litigation and personnel issues. Mr. Beaupre seconded the motion and all were in favor.

F. **Return to Regular Session**

At 5:40 pm, Mr. Beaupre made a motion to recess out of Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to discuss pending litigation and personnel issues. Mr. Csanadi seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Ferdinandi made a motion to keep the minutes of the Executive Session confidential. Mr. Beaupre seconded the motion and all were in favor.

II. Business Agenda

A. **Finance Report** – Cheryl Carroll, Business Office Coordinator

Since the State's budget process has not fully played out yet, to the best of Ms. Carroll's knowledge, we still have no changes to the Governor's recommendations. Recently, she was required to give a listing of what and how we spent the \$815,000.00 we were given this year for the additional 60 students. Other than that, there has been no further communication and we are just waiting.

Ms. Gailliard added that a group from the Providence School System is scheduled to come to Davies to listen to a presentation on our admissions

process, some information about Davies, and go through a tour of the school in our efforts to get students from Providence. Ms. Gailliard has met with the assistant superintendent, Tomas Ramirez, and we laid out a plan, which will be submitted to RIDE so they are aware of what we are doing.

B. **Human Resources**

There was no report.

C. **Domenic Mitchrone Memorial Scholarship Report (Ideas)**—Cheryl Carroll

Ms. Paquin, Executive Assistant, Mr. Murgo, Math Teacher, and Ms. Carroll met right after the last Board meeting when Mr. Ferdinandi gave us the assignment to come up with some ideas to memorialize Mr. Mitchrone and bring them back to the Board for discussion. Coincidentally, Mr. Murgo approached Ms. Carroll with those same thoughts the very next day. He said there were other faculty members who had come to him stressing that we should establish a Domenic Mitchrone memorial scholarship fund.

Mr. Murgo suggested giving the scholarship a four-year life because he felt it would be the ninth through the twelfth graders who would have some knowledge of Mr. Mitchrone. Mr. Beaupre thought it was too bad it couldn't be perpetual.

Ms. Gailliard prefers that it be an ongoing scholarship. We give out scholarships on Senior Award Night that students have no idea who they are in name of. It is all about what the award is for and why they are receiving them. We could do some kind of fundraiser to keep this scholarship ongoing and not limit it to just four years.

Mr. Beaupre asked if a \$500.00 scholarship would be enough. We would have everyone dancing the jig at that amount of an award but we just don't have that level of contribution. Mr. Beaupre said, "Well you do now."

Ms. Gailliard added that we just opened a new Senior Project Center. It is state of the art that ties into the High School Regulations and it is all based on knowledge, skills, and other proficiency stuff. We want to name that center the "Domenic Mitchrone Center."

We all gratefully thanked Mr. Beaupre for his generosity in pledging a lifetime commitment to a perpetual \$500.00 scholarship in the name of Domenic Mitchrone.

Mr. Ferdinandi gave us another assignment to work with Mr. Beaupre to come up with the criteria for the scholarship and to bring them back to the Board for discussion.

III. Informational Time/Program Updates

A. Director's Report

1) Teachers' Association

There were no Teachers' Association representatives present.

2) Teacher Assistants' Association

There were no Teacher Assistants' Association representatives present.

3) Business Partnership Breakfast-May 12, 2005— Stephanie Sullivan,

Business/Education Partnership Coordinator

Invitations to this breakfast were included in the Board's agenda packet.

Each year the Board is encouraged to attend if they can fit it into their schedule. It is from 8:30-9:30 am. She does need a Board member to give out the awards recognizing students who have successfully completed their co-op placements and to the business partners. There are two Business Partner of the Year awards this year, Elwin Electronics and IKON Office Solutions. Mr. Beaupre will try to be there, but Mr. Ferdinandi has another commitment. Dr. Segovis will be asked.

It's only an hour and it's a great breakfast. Ms. Gailliard added that you will see all of the hard work that Ms. Sullivan and her staff do in the School-to-Career office by the number of business partners, students, and alumni who are now business partners, sitting in the audience all recognizing the work we do in the school. It is just wonderful to see and experience.

4) Graduation Exercises-June 14, 2005 – Ms. Gailliard

Graduation Exercises are on the 14th. It is at 6:30 here out on the Baseball Field. We had it there last year and it was very successful. The Board is to notify Ms. Gailliard if they plan to attend. The Chairman of the Board usually speaks to the graduating class.

5) Senior Awards Night – May 26, 2005—Ms. Gailliard

This night we recognize all of our seniors that have demonstrated excellence in their technical areas as well as the academic areas. This is where some of those awards come in that were previously spoken about.

6) Freshman Parent Council Meeting – April 27, 2005- Ms. Gailliard

220 invitations were sent out to parents and about 25-30 attended. The focus was on the new high school graduation requirements. By mandate, we have to notify the Class of 2008 to inform them on what the new requirements will be for them. Ms. Gailliard did a Power Point presentation on the high school regulation similar to the one she gave to the Board last year. Then she focused more on what is expected of the students upon graduation and some of the assessments that are included. The presentation will be repeated for next year's freshmen and sophomores.

7) Presentation—Davies High School Reform Initiative Update – Ms. Gailliard
(*See attached outline on Davies status report on the High School Restructuring Regulations*)

Ms. Gailliard wanted to give the Board an update on where Davies is and where we are going with these new regulations with the three components:

high school literacy, high school restructuring, and graduation requirements. We are in 100% compliance with the literacy piece with the implementation of the Personal Literacy Plans, Ramp-up Program, and Discipline Specific Instruction. We have 10% of our students currently on PLP plans. These are the kids reading 6th grade and below that we have to by mandate develop a plan to improve the reading comprehension skills.

We have about 10% in our Ramp-up Program and those kids with a PLP are also part of the ramp-up. It's team teaching with a Reading and an English teacher where students are doing the content area as well developing the reading skills.

The discipline specific is the school-wide "Drop Everything and Read". Next year we have to offer PLP's school-wide. We are looking at probably between 66 or 10% of the total student body in grades 10-12 who will also be on a PLP. It is a separate set of assessments to diagnose what their needs are and prescribing what we need to do to move those students forward.

We are in 75% compliance with the high school restructuring piece with Common Planning Time (CPT), Professional Development, Advisory Structure and Personalized Learning Environment. There is a little change in the mandate language for CPT that 15 hours of that has to be on discussions about students and the other time is time spent looking at instruction, assessments, and curriculum.

We are in compliance with Professional Development. It has to tie in with things that are going to improve student performance and achievement. Everything is about student performance, student achievement and it should be.

With Advisories, it was a hot topic but we did it. We started implementing the program the day before this meeting. At least 75%-80% of the staff is happy we are doing advisories. The kids are so thrilled and elated that it is going on. Then there is the percentage of the staff that is not happy about it but it is a mandate and we have to do it. Ms. Gailliard wanted a pilot program in place before contract negotiations because advisories will be a part of the negotiation discussions. The program is every student has to know at least one adult, well, throughout their four-year experience here at the school. Each advisor is assigned 7-8 students and will have an ear for these student's concerns, academics, parents, etc. This advisor is in addition to the students' guidance counselors.

The Personal Learning Environment has not been instituted as of yet. There is a structure in place and ready to go. It ties into Common Planning Time and the Advisories.

The Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements is in progress. We just receive most of the documentation and the regulations within the last year. Including meeting the Carnegie Units (certain amount of credits in the academic content areas) the student also has to meet proficiency-based requirements. The High School Diploma System is a combination of the

increased Carnegie Units (20 of which we are in excellent shape) and the multiple measures of proficiency. The schools could select two multiple measures from a number of them offered by RIDE. We selected the graduation portfolio because it ties in the technical education and the graduation exhibition. Through this, students have to be proficient in six-core content areas to graduate: the 20 Carnegie Units, English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Technology, and the Arts. The Class of 2008 have to be proficient at this point in English and Math and they have to demonstrate it with not only the Carnegie Units but with the two other multiple measures.

We have decided the exhibitions will be what they are here for, technical education. They need to be competent in their area, they have to be able through the exhibition process demonstrate competency with a final physical written product and oral presentation in front of a panel demonstrating their proficiency in their technical area, English and math. As the years progress, the science, social studies, etc. will be brought in.

We have a team that is working on these multiple measures. As part of our Profession Development Day, we had an expert from North Carolina present to the staff and give them an exposure to the Senior Project. We are well on our way and we are moving toward the right direction. Ms. Gailliard assures the Board we will be 100% compliance within the next year. Teachers need to understand these changes are not changes in the working environment or added work, but they are changes in the status quo. The educational delivery system is no longer what it used to be.

Mr. Ferdinandi speaking for everyone on the Board commends the way Ms. Gailliard embraced these changes. Without her sponsorship, we will not be able to adhere to them and implement them. What helped her getting the staff's acceptance was the institution of an accountability system that ties into departmental funding.

IV. Adjournment:

At 6:10 p.m., Mr. Ferdinandi made a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.

V. Next Meeting June 1, 2005

These minutes of the May 4, 2005 Board of Trustees Meeting were unanimously accepted by the Board at the June 1, 2005 meeting.